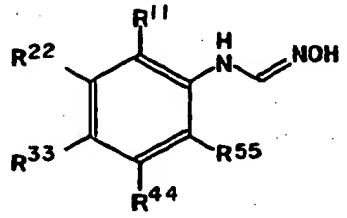
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1-4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) A hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ represented by the formula:



wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a C_{2-6} alkenyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzoylamino group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylthio group wherein the benzene ring is substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5

halogen atoms; a benzyl group substituted with a bicyclo[(2.2.1])-hept-5-en-2,3-dicarboxyimidyl group; a styryl group; a styryl group substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino alkyl groups; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a phthalimidoyl group; a phthalimidoyl group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; an N-carbazolyl group; a dioxopiperidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a phenylsulfonylamino group; a phenylsulfonylamino group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group substituted with a substituted phenyl group wherein the substituents in the substituted phenyl group are 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; a thienopyrimidinylthio group; a thienopyrimidinylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a thienopyridylthio group; a thienopyridylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a benzothiazolylthio group; a benzothiazolylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; a group represented by the formula: $-Y-(CR^{61}R^{62})_m-(CR^{63}R^{64})_n-R^{77}$ [(wherein Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^{77} represents a halogen atom; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{2-10} alkenyl

group; a phenyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro groups, cyano groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, phenyl groups, phenoxy groups, phenethyl groups, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, and halogen atoms; a cyano group; a carboxyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenoxy group; a phenylthio group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)toluidino group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperazinyl group; a piperazin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridylthio group; a quinolyl group; a furyl group; an oxetanyl group; an oxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an oxanyl group; a dioxanyl group; a dioxanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxanyl group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)pyrrolidinyl group; a piperidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)piperidinyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 2,6-purindion-7-yl group substituted with at least one

C_{1-6} alkyl group; a furfuryl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; or a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6}); or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ {(wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5- dioxopiperazin-1-yl group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group}), or alternatively,

the two groups adjacent to each other of R^{11} to R^{55}, taken together with the benzene ring to which they are bonded, form a phthalimide ring; a phthalimide ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an indole ring; an indane ring; an indazole ring; a benzotriazole ring; an S,S-dioxobenzothiophene ring; a 2,3-dihydroimidazo{(2,1-b})benzothiazole ring; a dibenzofuran ring; a dibenzofuran ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a fluorene ring; a fluorene ring substituted with a halogen atom; a pyrene ring; a carbostyryl ring; a carbostyryl ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a naphthalene ring; a naphthalene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, nitro groups, and C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; a quinoline ring; a quinoline ring substituted with a

C_{1-6} alkyl group; an isoquinoline ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a cinnolin ring; a cinnolin ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phthalazindione ring; a benzothiazol ring; a benzothiazol ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxorane ring; and a benzobutyrolactone ring, and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

6. (currently amended) The hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzoylamino group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylthio group wherein the benzene ring is substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5

halogen atoms; a benzyl group substituted with a bicyclo[(2.2.1])-hept-5-en-2,3-dicarboxyimidyl group; a styryl group; a styryl group substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino alkyl groups; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a phthalimidoyl group; a phthalimidoyl group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; an N-carbazolyl group; a dioxopiperidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a phenylsulfonylamino group; a phenylsulfonylamino group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group; an oxadiazolyl group substituted with a substituted phenyl group wherein the substituents in the substituted phenyl group are 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; a thienopyrimidinylthio group; a thienopyrimidinylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a thienopyridylthio group; a thienopyridylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a benzothiazolylthio group; a benzothiazolylthio group substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms; or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ [(wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a

thiadiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5-dioxopiperadino group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group]), or alternatively,

the two groups adjacent to each other of R^{11} to R^{55}, taken together with the benzene ring to which they are bonded, form a phthalimide ring; a phthalimide ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an indole ring; an indane ring; an indazole ring; a benzotriazole ring; an S,S-dioxobenzothiophene ring; a 2,3-dihydroimidazo[(2,1-b])benzothiazole ring; a dibenzofuran ring; a dibenzofuran ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a fluorene ring; a fluorene ring substituted with a halogen atom; a pyrene ring; a carbostyryl ring; a carbostyryl ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a naphthalene ring; a naphthalene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, nitro groups, and C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; a quinoline ring; a quinoline ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an isoquinoline ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring; a 2-oxo—α-chromene ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a cinnolin ring; a cinnolin ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phthalazindione ring; a benzothiazol ring; a benzothiazol ring substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxorane ring; and a benzobutyrolactone ring, and the remaining

groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

7. (currently amended) The hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 6, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group substituted with 1 to 6 halogen atoms; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a 3-phenyl-2-propenyloxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; a C_{2-10} alkanoylamino group; a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a carbamoyl group; a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl or phenyl groups; an N-(N',N'-di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl group; a cyano group; a cyano C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenyl group; a benzyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano groups, halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a biphenyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group; an α-cyanobenzyl group substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; a pyrrolidino group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyrimidinyl group; a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl groups and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrazolyl group; a pyrazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and trifluoromethyl groups; a furyl group; a furyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, and C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups; or a group represented by the formula: $-SO_2NR^8R^9$ [(wherein R^8 and R^9 are identical or different

and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a thiazolyl group, a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyridyl group, a pyridyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups, a pyrimidinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, a pyridazinyl group, a pyridazinyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, an indazolyl group, or a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or alternatively, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, form a 3,5-dioxopiperazin-1-yl group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a piperidino group, or a morpholino group~~]~~) and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

8. (currently amended) The hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a group represented by the formula: $-Y-(CR^{61}R^{62})_m-(CR^{63}R^{64})_n-R^{77}$ ~~[~~(wherein Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^{77} represents a halogen atom; a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group; a C_{2-10} alkenyl group; a phenyl group; a phenyl group substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro groups, cyano groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, phenyl groups, phenoxy groups, phenethyl groups, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, and halogen atoms; a cyano group; a carboxyl group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl group; a C_{3-8} cycloalkoxy group; a C_{1-6}

alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a C_{1-6} alkylthio group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy group; a C_{2-6} alkanoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group; a phenoxy group; a phenylthio group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)toluidino group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group; a piperidino group; a morpholino group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyrrolidin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperazinyl piperadinyl group; a piperazin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridylthio group; a quinolyl group; a furyl group; an oxetanyl group; an oxolanyl group; an dioxolanyl group; a dioxolanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; an oxanyl group; a dioxanyl group; a dioxanyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a benzodioxanyl group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)pyrrolidinyl group; a piperidinyl group; an N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)piperidinyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a thiazolyl group substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl groups; a 2,6-purindion-7-yl group substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl group(s); a furfuryl group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl group; or a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6), and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

9. (currently amended) The hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to Claim 8, wherein at least one of R^{11} to R^{55} represents a group represented by the formula: $-O-(CR^{61}R^{62})_m-(CR^{63}R^{64})_n-R^{77}$ ~~[~~(wherein R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, and R^{64} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a trifluoromethyl group; R^{77} represents a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group; a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a piperidyl group; a piperidyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperidino group; a piperidino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyridyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a pyridylthio group; a pyrrolidon-1-yl group; a pyrrolidinyl group; a pyrrolidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a pyrrolyl group; a thienyl group; a thiazolyl group; a morpholino group; a morpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a morpholinyl group; a morpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a homomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholino group; a thiomorpholino group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group; a thiomorpholinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; a piperazinyl group; piperazin-1-yl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group at the 4-position; a homopiperidinyl group; or a homopiperidinyl group substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group; m is an integer of 1 to 6; and n is an integer of 0 to 6~~]~~), and the remaining groups of R^{11} to R^{55} are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a trifluoromethyl group, a nitro group, or a halogen atom.

10. (currently amended) The hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein R^{11}, R^{22}, R^{44}, and R^{55} represent hydrogen atoms.

11. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting production of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid in a subject in need of such inhibition, said method comprising administering ~~an~~ a pharmaceutically-effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 5 to 9 to said subject.

12. (currently amended) A therapeutic method for treatment of a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease, said method comprising administering to a patient having a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 5 to 9.

13. (previously added) A method of inhibiting production of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid, comprising administering an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine derivative or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to claim 10.

14. (currently amended) A therapeutic method for treatment of a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease, said method comprising administering to a patient having a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease, or a circulatory disease an effective amount of the hydroxyformamidine compound ~~derivative~~ or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof according to claim 10.

15. (New) The hydroxyformamidine compound N-(3-chloro-4-morpholin-4-yl)phenyl-N'-hydroxyimidoformamidine.

16. (New) A method of inhibiting production of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid in a subject in need of such inhibition, said method comprising administering to said subject a pharmaceutically-effective amount of N-(3-chloro-4-morpholin-4-yl)phenyl-N'-hydroxyimidoformamidine or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

17. (New) A method for treatment of a kidney disease, a cerebrovascular disease or a circulatory disease, said method comprising administering to a subject having at least one of said diseases, wherein said diseases are caused by the activity of 20-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid, a pharmaceutically-effective amount of N-(3-chloro-4-morpholin-4-yl)phenyl-N'-hydroxyimidoformamidine or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.